

Mission Statement



The mission of the Catawba County Sheriff's Office is to provide information to our churches on safety and security concerns that could occur while at church. It is essential for the safety of your church and those attending to have plans in place to handle emergencies if they should occur.

Coy Reid

Power Point Presentation Security Concerns for Churches And

"The Role of Greeters and Ushers"

Contact Captain Alton Price

For A Presentation

To Your Church



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Catawba County Sheriff's Office

Church Security & Safety



Are You
Safe
at Church ?

Coy Reid
Sheriff

(828)464-5241

(828)465-8337

Church—Premises Inspection Checklist

Fire Safety: Fire drills conducted once per year during church service, or a deacons meeting on a week-night and conduct a fire drill. Fire alarm tested during drills. Fire extinguishers have yearly maintenance performed by a licensed technician. Church personnel conduct a monthly visual inspection of each extinguisher for adequate pressure. Combustibles kept to a minimum. Mechanical and furnace rooms free of combustible storage. Flammables stored in a separate building from the church building. Flammables kept away from open flame, hot surfaces and electrical exposure. Illuminated exit signs provided and maintained. Locking and chain devices specifically prohibited for use on any door equipped with panic hardware. Large trash containers equipped with flip-top lids. Oily rags and mops stored in approved metal containers. Compressed gas cylinders properly secured. Exit doors open in the direction of travel. Building evacuation plans posted. Fire doors in boiler and furnace rooms are self-closing and latched. Capacity signs posted in meeting rooms. Panic hardware on main doors. Corridors, exits and stairs not used for storage.

Baptismal Tanks: Corded microphones are not used in or near the baptismal tank. Microphones restricted to wireless only. Stairs and walking surfaces are coated with a proper adhesive to prevent slippery conditions. The tank is filled the day before the baptism. (Under no circumstances should you rely only on automatic shutoff devices and leave the church premises before the water has been turned off.) The heater turned off and the tank is emptied immediately after church service. The door leading to the baptismal tank is kept locked when the tank is not in use. Handrails on the stairs up to and down into the tanks.

Walking and Working Surfaces: Uniform height of stair steps. All stairs equipped with properly secured handrails. Top rails and mid rails on open sides of stairs and porches. Mid rails and toe boards for overhead storage. Floors free of tripping hazards and slippery surfaces. Carpets free of tears and wrinkles. Floor openings are equipped with railings. Full length glass doors and windows properly marked with decals.

Mechanical, Electrical, and Air-Conditioning Systems: Inspected and serviced on an annual basis by a professional technician. Boilers inspected and insured.

Transportation: All drivers, staff and volunteers, have good driving records and are known for their safe driving habits. Transportation of adults and youth in the back of open pickups or trucks is prohibited. Seatbelts fastened. (This implies adhering to the seating capacity of the vehicle.

First Aid: Each activity has adult supervisors who are certified in first aid. First aid kits located in the church facility.

Security: Windows at floor level equipped with latches and screens. Safe combination is changed on a periodic basis or whenever a major change in personnel occurs. Locks are re-keyed on a periodic basis. Records are maintained of church members with keys. Fences in good condition.

Major Contracts: Conference approval received before entering into any contracts.

Leasing Church Facilities: Prior approval from the Conference. Renting or leasing party signs a rental or lease agreement approved by Conference and attorney. The renting or leasing party provides a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Conference as an additional Insured.

Church Monies: Church has an active finance committee that meets each month. Cash is not kept on the premises. Deposits made as soon as possible after monies have been received. The appearance of repetition in the procedure of depositing funds is avoided (deposits at different times of day, etc.). The Church monies are not kept in the treasurer's or a member's home. Verification of money count by a second individual.